Vol. 19 No. 27

Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

Friday, July 12, 2002

Don't let it be you!

Courtesy of NASSIG Security

Security, Fire and Medical vehicles use their sirens, lights and horns to respond to emergency situations. There are many different types of classifications for an emergency, however one thing they all have in common is that the emergency provider needs to get there fast and safe. It is not only for the responders but for the public's

safety as well. It is ily and in the **Violators will be** States that Motor Vehicle Operators issued traffic right side of the sponding emer- tickets... approaching. Vio-

the law both in Sicwill pull to the road when a regency vehicle is lators will be is-

sued traffic tickets for violating this rule.

When you observe a Security, Fire or Medical vehicle coming toward you or coming from behind with code lights, sirens, or honking their horn, the proper thing to do is pull safely over to your right as much as possible and wait for them to pass. Make sure you check the road for additional emergency vehicles before proceed-

This will help your shipmates by allowing the emergency vehicle to respond quickly and safely to their emergency. The next one could be yours.

Thrift Savings Plan open season

Article courtesty of the Human Resources Office

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) season ends July 31. This will be an important opportunity for eligible U.S. civilian employees to participate in TSP, increase/decrease contributions, or reallocate the investment of your contributions in the five TSP investment funds.

Cancellation of TSP participation can be done at any time. If you cancel during open season you will be able to resume participation during the next open season. If you cancel outside an open season, you are not eligible to participate until the second open season after you cancel.

If you are covered by FERS (Federal Employees' Retirement System), you can contribute up to 12 percent of your basic pay each pay period. You will receive agency-matching contributions as follows:

- Dollar for dollar on the first three percent you contribute each pay period
- 50 cents on the dollar for the next two percent you contribute.

Also, your agency automatically contributes an amount equal to one percent of your basic pay each pay period, whether you contribute or not.

If you are covered by CSRS (Civil Service Retirement System), you can contribute up to seven percent of your basic pay each pay period. However, you do not receive any agency matching contributions.

First time employees that need to make charges to their TSP accounts or contributions need to access the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) through the Department of Navy Civilian Human Resources homepage at www.donhr.navy.mil. Select "Pay and Benefits" then "DON Civilian Benefits Information (EBIS)."

Once in the DON Civilian Benefits Information Center, select "EBIS." To log into EBIS, use your Social Security Number and password. New EBIS users must establish a password. To make a TSP open season change you must also establish a Personal Identification Number (PIN) if you have not previously created one in EBIS or The Benefits Line. Your initial PIN is your month and year of birth (MMYY). You must change this to a six-digit PIN.

By using EBIS you can make a TSP open season change 24hours a day from any computer with Internet access.

Further information about the TSP program can be found on the TSP website at: www.tsp.gov.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF TSP OPEN SEASON CHANGES

If you make a TSP Open Season change it is important to review your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) to ensure that the change is properly reflected. Information about projected TSP open season changes is available in EBIS.

For further information, please call Human Resources Office at 624-6681.

Freedom Fest 2002



This year's Freedom Fest was held over three nights highlighted by food, rides, and fun. Along with the normal festival events, this one was also featured a twilight fireworks display, a magician, a hypnotist and a live band. More on page 6.

Getting a grip on hand and power tools By Steven Whitney

Contributing writer

Hand and power tools are a vital part of our everyday lives. Hand and power tool safety unfortunately is often overlooked. Perhaps the excuse for this oversight is a tool's small size or maybe it is just complacency because these tools are used so frequently. Whatever the reason, the misuse of tools can have devastating effects on our health and our wallets.

While it may seem elementary, a good place to start with tool safety is a review of the differences between hand and power tools. Pinpointing these differences helps identify the hazards associated with each tool classification of tools and the regulations that apply to them.

Hand Tools

Hand tools are tools that have no outside power source, other than the physical force applied by the operator.

There are a number of hazards associated with the improper use of hand tools. Some examples include: Using a tool for something other than its intended use, such as employing a screwdriver as a chisel or a pry bar. This misuse could cause the tip to break off and hit the operator or a bystander in the face or eye. Increasing the leverage of a wrench by sliding a piece of pipe over the handle, possibly causing the jaws of the wrench to fail or the handle to break, leading to skinned knuckles or a fall from sudden weight shift.

Using impact tools, such as wedges or pins, which have developed mushrooms on their heads that can shatter on impact and hit bystanders or the operator. Using operating tools, such as axes, hammers, or saws, with wooden handles that are cracked, loose or splintered. A damaged handle can result in the tool's head flying off and injuring someone.

Don't use tools such as screwdrivers, pliers, and hammers, around live electrical circuits unless the tools are properly insulated. Use only tools made of non-ferrous metals when working around flammable materials to prevent sparks.

Power Tools

Power tools are operated with a power source, usually electrical, but it can also be compressed air, powder, and gas. Some of the hazards associated with hand tools also apply to power tools, such as using dull blades or using the tool for a job for which it was not designed. Workers should observe several additional safety precaudesigned. Workers should state tions when working with power tools:

Tools continued on page 2

Donnafugata Castle, a mingling of art styles



By Alberto Lunetta

Community Relations

Driving through the hills outside Ragusa you can picture what Sicilian poet Giovanni Virgadavola wrote about the Donnafugata Castle, one of the most imposing fortresses in Eastern Sicily: "Si viri ri luntanu 'stu castieddu comu 'u suli ca spunta a matina," (you can see this castle in the distance as you see the sun rising in the morning). Immersed in a carob forest that is part of a 85,000 square meters park, the castle overlooks a breathtaking hilly landscape crossed by an amazing network of "muri a siccu" (low dry-stone walls dividing the local farmers' properties).

Muslims built the castle in the 11th century as a blockhouse featuring a fortified watchtower. The castle's name derives from the Arabic word Aian as iafaiat which means "spring of health." Historians believe that this name refers to a spring, located in the neighborhoods of the castle, from which water still spurts out today. Over the centuries, the name of the castle was corrupted into Donnafugata that in English translates to "woman who escaped." According to tradition, this name is linked to a legend that tells of the daring flight of Queen Bianca of Navarra from the castle that allegedly took place in 1412. Bianca was appointed as the regent Queen of Sicily after the death of her husband King Martino I in 1410. Legend says that Count Bernardo Cabrera, an old powerful and ambitious noble from Ragusa, asked Bianca to marry him. Doing so, he could kill two birds with one stone by marrying a beautiful young wife and becoming the king of Sicily. But Bianca refused the proposal. Cabrera, who had a private army, had her arrested and locked her up inside the Donnafugata Castle. Eventually, Bianca managed to escape and reached Palermo from where she ordered the conviction of the impudent count.

The castle remained an anonymous stronghold for centuries until 1648 when Baron Vincenzo Arezzo bought it and transformed it into a "casina" (mansion) that served as a villa to spend summer holidays and go hunting.

In the 19th century, Baron Corrado Arezzo inherited the mansion and turned it into a magnificent castle featuring 122 rooms on an area of 2,500 square meters. Arezzo, born in 1824 in Ragusa, was a cultivated man who loved art, music and theatre and a witty politician. He wanted his castle to be a masterpiece of eclecticism, that is why the castello (castle) features different art styles combining traditional elements with modern features.

Today, the castle still displays its 19th century splendor due to the recent restoration that was carried out to preserve the original materials. There are 24 rooms that are open to the public for visits.

The castle showcases a remarkable loggia in Venetian-Gothic style.

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The mesmerizing Mirror Hall is the highlight of the castle. It features an elegant grand piano and richly decorated mirrors, and served as an area where aristocratic society could gather to enjoy performances and concerts.

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Signature

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Direct Line



Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG Commanding Officer



I want to thank everyone for a great Freedom Fest 2002. Even with all the additional measures and challenges that needed to be overcome, once again, the Sig team prevailed. From the planners and organizers at MWR, to the Security and Force Protection personnel, firefighters, entertainers, department and command booth workers, Public Works and loads of other community members who were integral in the setup and support of our three day festival, everyone certainly deserves a BZ for their teamwork and willingness to volunteer off-duty time and energy to ensure everyone had a fun and safe holiday.

And speaking of working together, I have to stress the importance of working together to not only enforce Antiterrorism and Force Protection, (AT/FP) but also to ensure we are at the level we are required

to be at.

In October, the base's AT/FP program will be given a thorough inspection known as the Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment, (JSIVA). The assessment will examine all facets of AT/FP, which includes reviewing department and tenant command AT/FP policies and procedures, having a dedicated team of designated working group and action committee members, random measures for deterrence, public information campaigns and public service announcements, and sound plans of action for exercises, drills and actual situations.

The success of our AT/FP program lies with each and every one of you. You have to be involved, and I mean fully involved. Each department and tenant command knows and understands their job, mission, personnel, strengths and weaknesses better than anyone else. We need your input in developing the right AT/FP program for NASSIG; the one that will enable us to maintain the necessary level of protection required to carry out the Navy's mission, our daily operations, while at the same time protecting America's assets and keeping the community safe.

I cannot stress enough the importance of the JSIVA inspection and your participation. October will be here sooner than we think and the AT/FP personnel still have many categories and sections the need to be evaluated, planned and developed in order for us to present a concise program that illustrates our ability to work together in any given threat environment and be a hard target. If you have any questions about AT/FP and/or who to contact about the JSIVA, call 624-6395. AT/FP...is everyone's responsi-

The Pulse



Five steps to safer health care



By Capt. Carol Morones, Director of Healthcare Planning and Operations

Patient Safety is one of our Nation's most pressing health care challenges. Healthcare providers and groups are working hard to improve health care quality. By practicing a few simple tips, you can improve the quality of your own health care, get better results and feel more satisfied. The following fact sheet was developed by Federal agencies in the Quality Interagency Coordination Task Force, in partnership with other health care purchasers to help you take better care of your self.

- 1. Ask questions. The single most important way you can help to prevent errors is to be an active member of your health care team. Speak up if you have questions or concerns. Choose a healthcare provider who you feel comfortable talking to about your health and treatment. Take a relative or friend with you if this will help you ask questions and understand the answers. It's okay to ask questions and to expect answers you can understand.
- 2. Know your medications. Keep a list of all the medications you take. Tell your doctor about all the medications you take, including over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin, ibuprofen, and dietary supplements like vitamins and herbals. Don't forget to tell vour healthcare provider about any allergies or side effects you have had in the past from medicines. This is very important when your healthcare provider gives you a new prescription. Ask your pharmacist about side effects and what foods or other things to avoid while taking the medicine. When you get your medicine, read the label, including warnings. Medication labels can sometimes be hard to understand. For example, ask if "four doses daily" means taking a dose every six hours around the clock or just during regular waking hours.
- 3. Uunderstand tests and procedures. Make sure you get the results of any test or procedure. Ask your healthcare provider or nurse when and how you will get the results of tests or procedures. If you do not get them when expected-in person, on the phone, or in the mail, don't assume the results are fine. Call you healthcare provider and ask for them. Ask what the results mean for your care.
- 4. Discuss your choices. Talk with your healthcare team about your options if you need hospital care. Know that "more is not always better." Be sure to find out why you need a test or treatment and how it can help you. You could be better off without it.
- 5. Understand your surgery. Make sure you understand what will happen if you need surgery. Ask your healthcare provider and surgeon:
 - Who will take charge of my care while I'm in the hospital?
 - Exactly what will you be doing?
 - How long will it take?
 - What will happen after the surgery?
 - How can I expect to feel during recovery?

Make sure to tell your surgeon, anesthesiologist, and nurses if you have allergies or have ever had a bad reaction to anesthesia.

TOOLS

continued from page 3

Never carry a power tool by the cord or yank the cord to disconnect it from the power receptacle. Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges. Do not allow doors to shut on cords or hoses.

Always disconnect the tool before servicing or cleaning. Protect bystanders from flying material. Secure work with a clamp to allow twohand operation. Do not hold your finger on start button while carrying tools (prevents accidental starting of the tool). Maintain good footing and balance while operating tools. Wear proper clothing and personal protective equipment. Tag all damaged tools as "Out of Service." Ensure all guards are attached and used properly when the tool is running. Among the most serious hazards of operating power tools is the possibility of electrical burns and shocks.

Power tools that use grinding wheels pose special hazards because they continually throw off fragments as they cut. It is important to check the abrasive wheel for damage or cracks before operation and to use only wheels rated for the operating speed of the tool.

Pneumatic Tools

Pneumatic tools are powered by compressed air and include jack hammers, chippers, drills, and sanders. The greatest hazard associated with the use of pneumatic tools is the possibility of being struck by one of the tool's attachments or by a fastener that is being installed by the tool.

To prevent such an incident, the air hose must be securely fastened to the tool by a positive locking device or both connectors must be wired together. Eye protection is also mandatory when operating pneumatic tools, and face, head, foot, and hearing protection may also be necessary.

All automatic or manual safety devices, such as the tip of the air nailer that prevents firing unless it is in contact with the work, must be operating properly. Additionally, screens should be set up to protect bystanders from flying debris when using chippers, air drills, or any other tool that could injure other workers.



Four Cheese Stuffed Mushrooms

Bea Cook

Contributing writer

These mushrooms make a great appetizer and can be done in the oven or on the grill.

- 12 large mushrooms ("stuffers")
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon onion, minced
- ½ teaspoon garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon basil
- 1/4 cup white wine
- ½ cup provolone, grated
- ½ cup mozzarella, grated
- ¹/₄ cup parmesan, shredded
- ½ cup romano, grated

Remove the stems from the mushrooms. Mince them and set aside. Heat the oil in a skillet. Add the onions, garlic and minced mushroom stems. Cook until soft (about five minutes over medium heat). Add the basil and wine. Simmer until almost dry (about seven minutes). Cool slightly. Blend in the cheese.

Preheat the oven to 350. Place the mushroom caps in a lightly greased baking pan. Fill the caps with the mixture and bake for 15 minutes (or until lightly browned). Serve warm. Or if you have the grill fired up, place on the grill and cook for 15 minutes with the lid closed.



Dogs: 5 Cats: 1 Puppies: 0 **Kittens: 6**



Call 624-3200 for the Stray Animal Facility if you are looking for a particular animal (ie. Breed, size, color or age).



Rumsfeld: Terror Arrests Ongoing in 'Great, Large World of Ours'

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — So many countries have heightened their defenses that terrorism suspects are being arrested around the world, often without much fanfare, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

"On any given day, week or month, there are going to be arrests somewhere in this great, large world of ours," Rumsfeld told Pentagon reporters. More arrests are inevitable "with all the countries that are cooperating on sharing intelligence (and) with all the countries that are at a heightened state of alert and attentiveness to who's moving in and out of their country."

He said he knew no details on two Americans allegedly arrested by Pakistani officials while they were trying to cross into Pakistan from Afghanistan.

"I don't know that they exist yet," Rumsfeld said of the American suspects. "I have no information other than the speculation I've seen in the press.'

He said he also had nothing on reports about a number of al Oaeda suspects allegedly arrested by Saudi authorities for terrorist plots in that country.

Rumsfeld said the two instances are only the ones being reported in the media. "There are countries arresting people ... that are not even being noted. That is a continuing process," he explained. "People are being interrogated. New information is being gathered. Laptops are being looked at. All of this puts pressure on the terrorist organizations, and it's a good thing.'

The secretary also briefly discussed Americans held by the Defense Department in this country. He said there is no set standard of who's given to DoD vs. the Justice Department.

"We will, as we have in the past, take a good, careful look to see if we agree with where somebody ought to be assigned," he said. "We certainly would not accept somebody that we didn't think was appropriate for the Department of Defense."

DoD currently is holding two U.S. citizens who are suspected terrorists. Jose Padilla, the alleged "dirty bomber" arrested in Chicago last month, is being held in a Navy brig in Charleston, S.C.

The other American citizen under DoD control is Yaser Esam Hamdi, who surrendered to U.S. forces after the Mazar-e Sharif prison riot in Afghanistan in Nov. 2001. While held as a detainee, he claimed his Saudi parents were in the United States on business when he was born. After U.S. government agencies verified his claim, DoD transferred him in April to a Navy prison in Norfolk, Va.

Rumsfeld said June 17 that he's concerned about the constitutional rights of these citizens who are being held without charges, but that he's also concerned for the safety of the American people.

When people are captured and in every respect can be properly categorized as combatants against the United States, their citizenship status is interesting, but so's the fact they are enemy combatants, he said. Throughout history, he continued, it's a wellestablished practice that those people are detained, not released, and not given the chance to take up arms against the country again.

The secretary said today that this citizenship issue is a new, important problem for the United States. "We've got to figure out how to do it right and do it well," he said.

"We've been trying to do it in a measured, careful, balanced way. Thus far we've succeeded, I

Healthwatch: Hypertension Does Its Damage Silently

By Aveline V. Allen Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Beware of the silent killer. Hypertension, or high blood pressure, claims many victims, but a lot of people who have it may not even know it.

"Though not curable, hypertension is fully controllable, and effective control reverses the risks associated with hypertension," said Cmdr. Christopher Culp, Navy Medicine's specialty leader for internal medicine.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), one in four adults have high blood pressure, but since there are often no symptoms associated with it, almost one-third don't know they have it. And while it's more common in adults, children and even babies can also be victims. In up to 90 to 95 percent of these cases, the cause is unknown.

Why should you be concerned about high blood pressure? First, it can lead to possible strokes, heart attacks and kidney failure. Essentially, high blood pressure makes your heart pump harder and your arteries experience greater pressure as they carry blood through your body.

Although there is no known cure for high blood pressure, there are several things you can do to control it. The AHA gives helpful hints on how to do

When considering food choices, choose foods that are high in potassium and low in sodium. These

- fruits, especially apples, bananas, cantaloupes and raisins:
- vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage (cooked), corn on the cob, and baked or broiled po-

- non-sodium seasonings, such as allspice, cinnamon, lemon juice and nutmeg instead of salt.

A good rule of thumb to remember is to eat foods lower in sodium such as meat, poultry and fish. Also when making your main-dish items, cook them with unsalted fat-free broth, low-sodium bouillon, lowsodium commercial canned soups or canned vegetables without added salt.

Read the food labels when you grocery shop and distinguish between foods that have a high sodium level and those that don't.

Another hint is keep your weight in line. "If you are even slightly overweight, simply losing the extra weight may eliminate the need for medications to control blood pressure," said Culp.

Not only is your diet and weight important to preventing high blood pressure, exercising also plays a key role in lessening the risk of developing it.

"Exercise is very valuable in reducing blood pressure and in countering the effects of hypertension," said Culp

The AHA recommends pleasure walking, gardening, moderate to heavy housework, and dancing as exercises you can do at home to help keep your blood pressure in check. More vigorous aerobic exercises include running, swimming, bicycling and roller-skating.

For additional information on high blood pressure, contact your healthcare provider or visit the America Heart Association Web site at www.americanheart.org.

Sig News Notes

Airline Strike

Rome Airports will be on strike, July 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As always, there may be flight delays or cancellations. Travelers are encouraged to contact their airline directly to check the status of their flight.

Test Cancellation

The Navy College Test Control Officer will be on leave from July 26 until Aug. 26. During the time of his absence Navy College will be unable to give any CLEP, DANTES, or Excelsior exams. Please plan accordingly. For more information call 624-2519 or 624-2511.

Driver Improvement Course

The next Driver Improvement Program (DIP) class is being held July 27. If you are Traffic Court appointed or if you desire to take this class please sign up as soon as possible. The class can hold 30 members and there is approximately 10 members on the sign up list already. The location of the class is TBD right now. In order to sign up for this class please contact MA2 Poole at x2776 or e-mail poolee@nassig.sicily.navy.mil .

Sure Start Applications

Sure Start applications for four year olds are now being accepted for the 2002/03 school year. Applications must be submitted to the Stephen Decatur Elementary School registrar no later than Aug. 14, for consideration. If you have previously applied, a current LES needs to be resubmitted to the Stephen Decatur Elementary School registrar. Students enrolled in the Sure Start Program are selected by the Sure Start Steering Committee which includes school and base services personnel. Considerations for enrollment include one or more of the following conditions:

- Child in a family with E-1 to E-4 income
- Child of low birth weight under five pounds
- Child has a parent whose primary language is not English
- Child has a parent who was a teenager when child first born
 - Child is in a family headed by single parent
 - Child has three or more siblings close in
- Child has an older sibling with a severe dis-
- Child has a parent on remote assignment for three or more months
- Child has a parent who has not graduated

In order to keep this program consistent with DoDDS kindergarten enrollment dates, children considered for Sure Start must be four years old on or before Oct. 31. Four year olds whose sponsor is equivalent to E-4 or below have first priority for enrollment in Sure Start. For more information, please call the school's main office at 624-

Sigonellan to reclaim boxing title

By SN Michelle Watkins

Staff writer

Two opponents face off as the bell rings, the beginning of round one. All eyes are on the ring as the two bob and weave around each other. Each send a barrage of punches, upper cuts and jabs. Rivers of sweat cascade off their bodies as they alternate between defensive and offensive stances. Trading blow after blow each boxer has but one thought in

At the age of 13, MA1 (SW) Kevin Palmer fell in love with boxing and since then has pursued his passion. He had his first fight when he was 15-years-old. During his career he has competed in 26 fights and has 14 knockouts under his belt. He is currently ranked number 11 in the World Boxing Com-

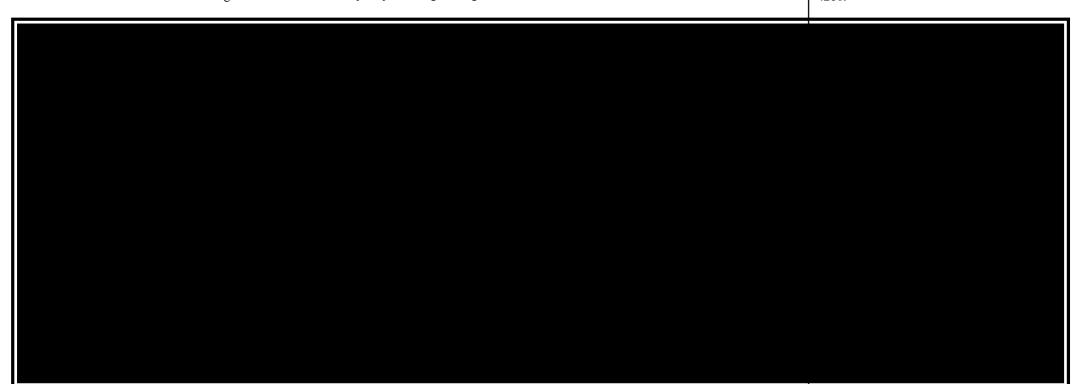
After this past year's training, Palmer is prepared to head back to Japan in hopes of reclaiming his Orient Pacific Boxing Federation title, OPBF. Having already fought his opponent twice before, he knows both his weaknesses and strengths. As time nears he will be ready to reclaim his title.

Palmer trains six days a week, twice a day conditioning his body. He continues to keep his determination, and discipline up by maintaining a strict diet and running several times a week to build up his strength and endur-

Sparing with Italian boxers at a local gym three times a week enables him to learn different techniques providing an edge over his opponent. "The European style is very different from the American style; with the American and the European style combined it makes a good combination."

Palmer is motivated to go back to Japan and step into the ring not only representing America but the United States Navy and Sigonella. "The continued support of friends, coworkers, and family has always been a factor to keeping me mentally strong, and motivated to train harder," said Palmer.

"I would like to send out a message to anyone that is actively involved in sports, to remember that desire, discipline and determination will always get you through."





Jazz entertainment kicks off in Catania

Four legendary American jazz artists and bands will perform in Catania for the *Brassgroup Festival 2002*, an amazing fourday jazz event that will be held from July 23 through 26. The Cortile Platamone, a courtyard located in the historic center of Catania in via Landolina n. 11 will be the setting of the festival.

On July 23, the festival kicks off with Steps Ahead, a New York fusion band featuring Mike Mainieri, vibraphone; Bob Berg, tenor/soprano saxophones; Elian Elias, piano; Peter Erkshine, drums; Marc Johnson, double-bass. Vibraphonist, arranger and composer Mike Mainieri formed this talented jazz/fusion group in 1979. Originally, the band started playing as a way of bringing together some of the virtuoso musicians at the Seventh Avenue Club in New York. Over the years, Steps Ahead has become an important and influential band on the jazz scene.

Two-time Grammy Award winner Jazz vocalist and pianist *Diane Schuur* will perform on July 24. Schuur is also nicknamed "Deedles" and "The New First Lady of Jazz." Stan Getz discovered her at the Monterey Jazz Festival in 1979. Ever since she has become one of the world's greatest modern jazz voices being able to pick and interpret such a wide range of jazz and blues songs with so many different types of arrangements. She worked with master musicians including B.B. King, Ray Charles and Quincy Jones and recorded more than a dozen albums. Schuur, who also played twice at the White House,

has been compared to jazz legends Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan.

On July 25, Tuck & Patti, a world-renowned duo will perform their passionate jazz/pop style featuring original compositions, familiar songs, and classics. Tuck Andress, a stunning jazz guitarist and his musical partner and wife, Patti Cathcart, a unique soulful mezzo-soprano voice, have been performing together for twenty years producing an amazing mix of jazz, blues, funky, pop, Brazilian and African tunes.

An amazing concert featuring Stanley Jordan will close the festival on July 26. A jazz living legend, talented virtuoso guitarist Stanley uses a unique and spectacular two-handed technique called the "Touch" or "Tapping" Technique to achieve a level of orchestral complexity equaling that of a keyboard instrument. Tapping on the fret board with both hands at once, he can sound like two or three guitarists at the same time with no overdubs or other studio techniques.

Following the concert, Mike Mainieri, vibraphone, Bob Berg, tenor/soprano saxophones and Peter Erkshine, drums will join Stanley Jordan on the stage to perform a stunning final jam session. All concerts will begin at 9:30 p.m.

A ticket to all four concerts costs 40 euro while a single ticket costs 16 Euro. Seats will be individually reserved and assigned. For more information call Ticket Box Office at 095-7225340.

Religious Festival to be held in Acireale

On July 26, a religious festival in honor

of Santa Venera, the city patron saint will be held in Acireale. The festival will feature processions holy masses and fireworks

cessions, holy masses and fireworks. The origin of the cult of Santa Venera in Acireale dates back to the 17th century. According to tradition, Venera was a young girl who lived in Acireale around 100 AD even though she is venerated throughout Sicily. After the death of her parents, she devoted herself to preach the gospel. Because of her Christian faith she underwent a terrible martyrdom. Historic sources tell that Santa Venera was already venerated in Roman times when a temple in her honor was built over a thermal spring site near Acireale that is today named "Santa Venera al Pozzo," (Saint Venera at the Well). In 1620, a small church was built on the ruins of that temple in the small town of Aci San Filippo. Later in 1668, the Vatican approved the cult of Santa Venera as the patron saint of Acireale.

In the 17th century, skilled silversmiths from Messina made a precious ornamented silver bust depicting the saint and six reliquaries containing some of her bones that are preserved inside the Acireale cathedral.

The festival begins at 10:30 a.m. with a solemn holy mass celebrated at the cathedral by the Archbishop of Catania.

In the evening at 8 p.m., Devotees dressed in white tour throughout the city's historic center carrying the "Candelore," (candlemas) that are magnificently decorated wooden structures shaped like bell-towers representing the city guilds and containing a toll candle. Later at 9 p.m., the holy bust of Santa Venera is brought in procession through the following roads: via Davì, via Meli, piazza



Photo courtesy of Father Roberto Stran

This precious ornamented silver bust depicting Santa Venera and six reliquaries containing some of her bones will be carried in procession during the religious festival that will be held in her honor on July 26, in Acireale. Skilled silversmiths from Messina carved the bust and the reliquaries in the 17th century.

L. Vigo, via R. Settimo, piazza Duomo, Corso Savoia, piazza Vasta, and Corso Umberto. At 10 p.m. the procession returns to the main square among spectacular fireworks. The festival ends at 10 p.m. when the bust is placed back inside a chapel located in the cathedral.





Week at a glance

Week at a glance

HOROSCOPES

ARIES: Your sensitive nature will allow others to read you well. Don't volunteer private information about yourself unless you're prepared to be talked about behind your back. You will be encouraged to get involved in a moneymaking venture.

TAURUS: Limitations at work might set you back. Be careful when dealing with superiors. Do your best, but don't make too many promises or you may exhaust yourself. Look into some personal changes. Invite friends in for a visit.

GEMINI: You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. Your communication skills will bring you popularity and increased self-esteem. Be cautious when dealing with foreigners. Physical limitations are possible if you aren't careful.

CANCER: Get motivated and follow up on some self-improvement resolutions. It might be time to shake a leg and do a personal makeover. Try not to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. Children will be of major concern if you haven't kept the lines of communication open.

LEO: You will be in an overly generous mood this week. Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. Your best efforts will come through hard work. Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment.

VIRGO: Be careful not to hurt the ones you love. They will not be in the right frame of mind to put up with tactless comments. Your creative ideas must be put to good use. You can ask for favors or run your ideas by those who will be able to support your objectives.

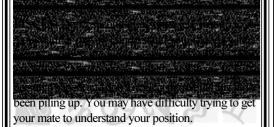
LIBRA: Your charisma will no doubt attract a lot of attention. Use your intellectual approach to get the best results. You're in the mood to spend time with your lover. Try not to confront issues until you have the strength to cope with the outcome. You'd better put in some overtime in order to pay for the debts you may have incurred last week.

SCORPIO: If you're looking to do something worthwhile, consider volunteer work, or just helping out a friend. Be careful not to push your luck or take too much for granted when dealing on either a personal or professional level.

SAGITTARIUS: Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are evident. Do not allow colleagues to hinder your ambitions. You can make career moves that will bring you a much higher income. Your ability to come up with good solutions for problems related to work will no doubt help you in getting a promotion.

CAPRICORN: If you want to make your mark, try to get involved in projects that will bring you some glory. Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about any one. You should get out and meet some of those clients that you only speak to on the phone. Trips will be favorable for business as well as pleasure.

AQUARIUS: New romantic partners will evolve through group endeavors; however, the association may not be likely to last. Find out if they have other commitments. You might find that coworkers will







It's been four years since the alien-seeking agents averted an intergalactic disaster of epic proportions. Kay has since returned to the comforts of civilian life while Jay continues to work for the Men In Black, the highly funded yet unofficial government agency that regulates all things alien on earth. Now they must reunite to provide the best, last and only line of defense against a sinister seductress who levels the toughest challenge yet to the MIBs untarnished mission statement: protecting the earth from the scum of the universe. Cast: Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Michael Jackson.



What movie was the first nationwide box office hit?
Who invented the four-wheel roller skate?
What is rock singer Marilyn Manson's real name?
Before Napoleon III, what color was the traditional bridal gown?
When was flavored ice cream invented?
(Answers on page 7)

Best Sellers--Barbecue Tools

Mr. Bar-B-Q Platinum Prestige 21-piece tool set
Sabatier 11-piece BBQ tool set
All clad stainless 4-piece barbecue tool set
Calphalon commercial nonstick skewers
Digital fork thermomether



They did what?

Just outside of Wichita, a 21-year old farm boy was driving a grain harvester across his winter wheat field to collect the crop. This particular piece of farm equipment has huge rotating blades that cut down the wheat stalks. At some point during the harvesting, the driver's cowboy hat was blown off by the wind and hurtled some distance in front of the blades.

Thinking that the tractor was not moving fast enough to warrant stopping, or perhaps just not thinking at all, he jumped down and ran in front of the tractor to collect his hat. It was still being blown around by the wind, and after chasing it for a bit, he finally caught up with it. Meanwhile, the harvester had caught up with him, and his body was found scattered across the wheat field.

Local authorities were contacted by a neighbor who noticed the tractor crossing Highway 96 with no driver.





phy, *Child Star*, the movie does a good job depicting her life as a beacon of hope during the depression years. Newcomer Ashley Rose Orr does an excellent job capturing Shirley's effervescent essence, and smilesand even resembles her to a point.

The movie tells the story of a young actress' popularity, the sever of ties with Twentieth Century Fox, then skipping three years later at age 15 when she completes one more movie.

Shirley kept her innocence about her and remained down to earth even through popularity and the downfall of her career. Who would have known that she would later devote the rest of her life to politics.

My favorite part of the movie was when Shirley danced with Bill "Bo Jangles" Robinson (Hinton Battle). Their tap dancing scene came alive with intrique skills and colorful music. It made me wish that a could dance up the stars like that and not tumble head over heels down the stairs.

I rated this movie five stars. It is great enter-

tainment for the whole family. Disney knew what they were doing when they casted Orr to play Shirley. But don't take my word for it, go out and rent it today.

Cast: Ashley Rose Orr, Connie Britton, and Hinton Battle. Directed by Nadia Tass.



By SN Michelle Watkins



Break a record, win a prize. Could AFN have lost the number to DRMO? STRIKE!



Mustang Sally takes to the stage as the prepare for their big open concert later that night. Often compared to as the six Dixie Chicks, they had a large varity of music, from pop and R&B, to rock and country.



alone!

Photos by PH3 Jessica Price





Fun for the whole family...



What festival would be complete without barbecued ribs? Many thanks go to the hard workers at PWD.





Photo by Alberto Lunetta

The Donnafugata Castle, one of the most imposing fortresses in Eastern Sicily, has been recently restored and it is open to the public for visits. The castle, which was originally built by the Muslims in the 11th century as a fortified watchtower, features different art styles combining traditional elements with modern features. In the 19th century, Baron Corrado Arezzo inherited the mansion and turned it into a magnificent castle featuring 122 rooms on an area of 2,500 square meters.

OTT

continued from front page

After you enter the castle the tour begins with a staircase made of black pitchstone that is typical of the Ragusa area. Tour continues through several richly decorated and furnished rooms such as the Women Hall, the Library, the Smokers Hall, Music Hall, the Pool Hall, and the Queen's bedroom where, according to legend, Bianca lived during her imprisonment

The red-velvet Bishop Hall (where the local bishop use to spend his vacations) and the medieval-styled Coat of Arms Hall including armors are worth seeing. The castle also contains a small picture gallery. But the real highlight of the fortress is the sumptuous Mirror Hall. It features an elegant grand piano and richly decorated mirrors, and served as an area where aristocratic society could gather to enjoy performances and concerts

As you leave the castle, you will find a park that is worth the walk even though

it has not been renovated yet. It contains a labyrinth, an artificial grotto and a small neoclassic building that served as a coffee and teahouse.

"The Sicilian Region spearheaded the castle renovation project that cost about eight million Euro and lasted six years. We have also activated a special train from Ragusa and Modica to Donnafugata to give visitors the opportunity to enjoy an amazing 30-minute scenic view of beautiful landscapes and visit the castle paying only seven Euro. The train runs only on weekends," Dr. Nuccio Malfitano, the Ragusa Cultural Councilor said.

For more information, schedules and tickets contact Ragusa Railway station at 0932-682129.

How to get there: Getting to the castle is easy. From the Primosole Bridge take the Catania-Ragusa national road. Once in Ragusa exit Santa Croce Camarina before you enter the city and follow signs for Castello Donnafugata.

Opening Hours and fees: The Castle is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. It can only be vis-

ited by guided tours that are usually presented in Italian. But with advance notice guides can give tours in English.

The cost of a ticket is five Euro. Admission is free for kids under 18 and adults 65 and over.

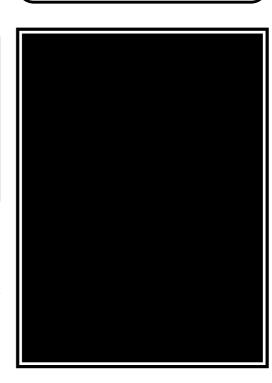


Photo by Alberto Lunetta

The Queen's Bedroom is one of the 24 rooms that have been restored preserving the original materials. According to tradition, Queen Bianca of Navarra lived here as a prisoner because of her refusal to marry Count Bernardo Cabrera who aspired to becoming the king of Sicily.

Trivia Answer

1) The Squaw Man in 1914, making \$210,000,000 profit to fill \$210,000 profit \$210,000 profit \$210,000 profit \$210,000 profit \$210 profit \$



Value 19 No. 22 - Friday, July 12, 2002

THE SIGNATURE

CET	Friday, July 12	Saturday, July 13	Sunday, July 14	Monday, July 15	Tuesday, July 16	Wednesday, July 17	Thursday, July 18	Friday, July 19	CET
00:00	ESPN News	ESPN News	Saturday Night Live	Sports cont.	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	00:0
00:30	MLB	Movie: Waterbov	,g	\	Movie: Lost in Space	Movie: Alive	MLB	MLB	00:3
01:00				Headline News	1	l l			01:0
01:30			It's Showtime at the Anollo	Seinfeld					01:3
02:00				Spin City		l l			02:0
02:30				Entertainment Tonight	Movie: TimeCop				02:3
03:00		Movie: 20,000 Leagues Under	Late Friday	WWF Superstars		1			03:0
03:30	ESPN News	the Sea	-	America's Black Forum	1	l i	ESPN News	ESPN News	03:3
04:00	Headline News			Meet the Press	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	04:0
04:30	ABC World News		Entertainers		ABC World News	ABC World News	ABC World News	ABC World News	04:3
05:00	ESPN News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	ESPN News	ESPN News	Headline News	ESPN News	05:0
05:30	NBC Nightly News	ABC World News	Hour of Power	ESPN News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	05:3
06:00	A Canitol Fourth	ESPN News	Creflo Dollar	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	06:0
06:30		NBC Nightly News	Coral Ridge Hour		Sagwa	Peter Rabbit			06:3
07:00		Dragon Tales	Christopher Closeup	Harold and the Purple Crayon	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	Blue's Clues	Teletubbies	07:0
07:30	Wheel of Fortune	Dora the Explorer	Cafe Video	Wheel of Fortune	Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrey	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	07:3
08:00	Oprah Winfrev	Mary Kate & Ashley	Little Bear	Oprah Winfrey			Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrey	08:0
08:30		The Odd Parents	Wishbone		Port Charles	Port Charles			08:3
09:00	Port Charles	Jackie Chan	Family Movie:	Port Charles	Guidina Liaht	Guidina Liaht	Port Charles	Port Charles	09:0
09:30	Guidina Liaht	Lizzy McGuire						Guiding Light	09:3
10:00		Junkvard Wars		Guiding Light	General Hospital	General Hospital	Guiding Light		10:0
10:30	General Hospital		Rugrats	General Hospital			General Hospital	General Hospital	10:30
11:00	Headline News	This Old House	Cinema Secrets	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	11:00
11:30	Judge Judy	Motor Week	At the Movies	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	11:30
12:00	Todav	Entertainment Tonight	Your Corps	Today	Todav	Today	Todav	Todav	12:0
12:30			Air Force News						12:3
13:00		WWF Smackdown	MLB						13:0
13:30									13:3
14:00	Arthur	My Wife and Kids		Winnie the Pooh	Mighty Ducks	Hey Arnold	Rugrats	Arthur	14:00
14:30	The Proud Family	King of Queens		Wild Thornberries	The Weekenders	Recess	Happily Ever After	The Proud Family	14:3
15:00	7th Heaven	Enterprise	WWF Superstars	Horrible Histories	In the Mix	Croc Files	Pokemon	7th Heaven	15:0
15:30				Brothers Gracia	Taina	Bonehead	Men in Black		15:3
16:00	Jeopardy!		Andromeda	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	16:0
16:30	Headline News			Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	16:3
17:00	CNN	Headline News	SportsCenter	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	CNN	17:0
17:30	Headline News	Navy/Marine Corps News	MLB	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	17:3
18:00	The Simpsons	SportsCenter		60 Minutes	7th Heaven	VH1 Military Diaries	Friends	The Simpsons	18:0
18:30	Malcolm in the Middle	MLB		71 147 (147		Bernie Mac	Titus	Malcolm in the Middle	18:3
19:00	The Bachelor	1		The West Wina	Movie: The Sixth Sense	Dark Angel	Fraiser	The Bachelor	19:0
19:30	A	1		NYPD Blue	1	1 2 3 3 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	Scrubs	A1:	19:3 20:0
20:00	Alias			NYPDBlue		Boston Public	ER	Alias	20:0
20:30	Headline News			Headline News	Headline News	Hoadling Nows	Headline News	Headline News	21:0
21:00	Headline News	1		Tonight Show w/Jav Leno	Tonight Show w/Jav Leno	Headline News Tonight w/Jay Leno	Tonight Show w/.lay I eno	Tonight Show w/ Jay Leno	21:0
21:30 22:00	Tonight Show w/ Jav Leno			10111gill 3110W W/3ay Lello	i Tonight Show W/Jay Leno	TOTIIGHT W/Jay Leno	romain Snow wr.iav Leno	I TOMATIL SHOW W/ JAV LENO	22:0
22:00	Late Show w / Letterman	1		Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w/ Letterman	Late show w/ Letterman	Late Show w / Letterman	22:0
22:30 23:00	Late Silow w / Letterman		ESPN News	1 Luis Ollow W/Letterman	†	Late Show w/ Letterman	Late Silow W/ Letterillall	Late Silow w/ Letterman	23:0
23:30		1	Arena Football	ESPN News	ESPN News	1		l	23:3

